



The Newsletter of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society

Volume XVI, No. 7

March 2014

Delaware Home and Garden Show

Entering its 21st year the Delaware Home Show Wilmington continues to be the largest show of its kind in the First State.

The Delaware African violet and Gesneriad society has again been invited to participate in the show. By any measure, the Society's exhibit at the Delaware Home and Garden Show in the Chase Center at the Wilmington Riverfront was a great success. We will again need members to staff the exhibit on Saturday, March 29m 2014 from 9 a.m. (set up will be from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.) until the show closes that evening at 6 p.m. and again on Sunday, March 30, 2014 from 11 a.m. until the show closes that afternoon at 4 p.m.

Since the Home Show is just a few weeks prior to the Annual Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Show, this is a fantastic opportunity to encourage gardeners to attend our Show as well as recruiting new members.

Quentin Schlieder will again be designing the exhibit, however we will need member plants for the table. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the March meeting. Please check your calendars and see if you can give a few hours to help out at the Show.

This year's Delaware Home Show offers something exciting and useful for every lifestyle from first-time homeowners to move-up buyers and empty nesters. Featuring more than 200 exhibits, highlighting exciting new products, time and money saving services, the hottest styles in home fashions and fabulous ideas homeowners.

Proposed 2014-15 Officers

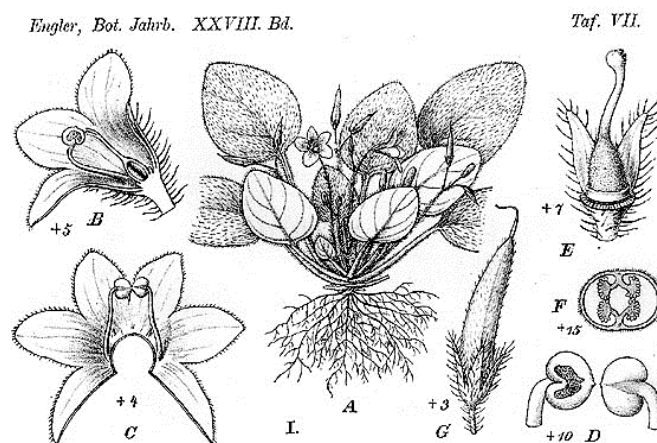
The following Slate of Officers for 2014-15 is proposed by the Nominating Committee for election at the April meeting:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ President | Mary Schaeffer |
| ▪ Vice President | Julia Lynch |
| ▪ Secretary | Terry Celano |
| ▪ Treasurer | Bobbie LaFashia |

Nominations also can be offered from the floor. The installation of officers will be held at the June meeting. The nominating Committee was chaired by Gary Hunter, with Quentin Schlieder, Ray Ruger and Libby Behnke serving on the Committee.

Violet Species – One by One Saintpaulia pusilla

Editor's note: The newsletter is profiling the species of African Violets in the coming issues. If you have had experience successfully growing any of these, please share your experiences by sending them to the Editor. this is the second article in the series and is dedicated to Saintpaulia pusilla.



Saintpaulia pusilla Engl. Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 28, t. 7 (1894)

The smallest and one of the oldest of the *Saintpaulia* species, *S. pusilla* has small, bi-colored flowers. The flowers are blue and white. Leaves have a purple underside. *S. pusilla* is the species from which the first true miniature African Violets were developed and generally grows as a single crown. The species was believed to be extinct, though some probably still exist in cultivation and a new population was discovered in the wild.

The species name "pusilla" is derived from the Latin "pusillus" (very small) in recognition of the plant's very small size. It was first discovered in the Ulugura Mountains of eastern Tanzania on the Lukwangula Plateau at an elevation of 4000–5600 feet by W. Goetz in 1898.

The leaf-blade is 1 by 2/3 inches, with sparse hairs, and entire margins (no teeth). The underside of the leaves is purplish. The flowers are small cymes with few flowers. The calyx-lobes are 1/8 inch long. The corolla 1/3 inch in diameter. the fruit is a capsule about 1/3 by 1/12 inch in size.



Casting a Violet Spell

Presented by
**THE DELAWARE AFRICAN VIOLET
AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY AND
BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE
AT CHRISTIANA TOWN CENTER**

Welcome to our 2014 show
Casting a Violet Spell

The Society gratefully acknowledges the use of the Boscov's Department Store for our show and appreciates the valuable assistance of the Boscov's staff. Our society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June. For more information, contact Quentin Schlieder by phone at (302) 653-6449 or check the Society's website at <http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/>.

SPECIAL AWARDS 2014

Ribbons - Delaware Council of African Violet Judges
Award ~ Springfield Judges Award

\$50 each - Best Saintpaulia ~ Best Gesneriad
(Susan Schlieder Memorial) ~ Best Artistic ~ Peoples
Choice Award (In honor of DAVS Members) ~ Best
African Violet Standard Collection ~ Best Mini/Semi-
mini Collection (Gen Scholl Memorial)

\$25 each - Best Gesneriad Collection (June McMurry Lesh Memorial) ~
Saintpaulia Sweepstakes (Carol Catlett Memorial) ~ Gesneriad
Sweepstakes (Bessie Pyle Memorial) ~ Design Sweepstakes ~ Best
Novice Entry (Crystal Lavinnia Worrell Memorial) ~ Best Dish Garden
(Fiore Celano, Sr. Memorial)

\$15 - each - 2nd best Saintpaulia ~ 2nd Best Gesneriad (In Honor of
Wally Behnke) ~ Best Fibrous Gesneriad ~ Best Rhizomatous
Gesneriad (Ron Schacht Memorial) ~ Best Tuberous Gesneriad
(Charlotte Maltman Memorial) ~ Best Standard Saintpaulia (In honor
of Diane Abramson)

Best Species Saintpaulia (Madeline Becker Memorial)

\$10 - each Best Kohleria ~ Best Primulina (In honor of Libby Behnke)
~ Best Episcia ~ Best Sinningia ~ Best Terrarium (John Houston
Memorial) ~ Best Container Garden ~ Best Arrangement ~ Best
Interpretive Planting (In Honor of Angie Celano)

SHOW RULES

1. Exhibitors: The show may be entered by amateur growers only. Exhibitors must be members of the Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society.

2. Entries: Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, April 11, 2014 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Design and late horticulture entries will be accepted on Saturday, April 12 2014 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. only by prior reservation and with the approval of the Entries Chairman Entries may be removed after closing of the show on Saturday, April 12th after 5 p.m. Plants must be clean, healthy, and well-groomed and grown by the exhibitor for at least three months. All African violet species, cultivars, and other gesneriads shall be correctly named. Any number of plants may be entered in each class by an exhibitor but only one plant of a variety may be entered in the same class.

3. Horticulture: All specimen plants must be in clean plastic or terracotta pots, with the exhibitor's name on the bottom of the pot. Pots may be set within clean pots of the same size and type. Removable, flair, or separate collars are not allowed. Micro-mini violets may be shown with plastic wells and gesneriads may be shown as they are grown. All African violets, except for trailers and some species plants, must be single crowned. All African violets must be in bloom. The gesneriads grown for foliage class is limited to plants with distinctive and ornamental foliage.

4. Design: Notify the design chairperson of your design division entry at the meeting prior to the show. Exhibitors are limited to one design entry per class. Mats, bases, backgrounds, and accessories are permitted. Terrariums must be covered. Chairs will be provided for judges to judge at eye-level. The American flag, state flags, flags from other nations, plants on the endangered list from any state or nation, artificial plant material, and live creatures shall not be used in any design division exhibit. African violet plants and other plant material used need not be grown by the exhibitor.

5. Judging: The show will be merit judged by AVSA judges, using AVSA scale of points applicable to each class. The authority for judging shall be *The AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, 1998 Edition, supplemental pages, and subsequent changes printed in *The African Violet Magazine*. Only blue ribbon exhibits shall be eligible for any special awards. The decision of the judges shall be final. The Richardson Park Learning Center plants will be judged by DAVS judges, and those entries will not be part of the ribbon count for the standard show award.

6. Eligibility: Only AVSA members are eligible to enter the AVSA collection classes. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each collection class.

7. Disclaimer: The Society will provide protection for all exhibits, but will not be responsible for any losses. The committee reserves the right to subdivide the classes.

SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman	- Julia Lynch
Co-Chairman	- Stephanie Griffith
Schedule	- Quentin Schlieder, Bobbie LaFashia
Plant Placement	- Diane Abramson, Mark Griffith and Diana Metzger
Entries	- Barb Borleske and Kathe Worrell
Awards	- Nancy Murray, Ann Petrucci and Carol Moody
Judges	- Libby Behnke
Clerks	- Diane Abramson
Publicity	- Quentin Schlieder, Stephen Maciejewski and Geno Iubatti
Theme/Staging	- Terry Celano
Ribbons	- Nancy Murray
AVSA/ Educational Exhibit	- Angie Celano and Geri Garvin
Gesneriad Society Exhibit	- Elizabeth Varley
Sales Plants/Supplies	- Quentin Schlieder, Gary Hunter, Bill Dillon, Claudia Bradley, Maria Valueff and Pat Barbarita
Passing/Classification	- Brian O'Connor, Carol Moody and Mary Schaeffer
Design	- Bobbie LaFashia
Theme	- Linda McGregor

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION I. Standard Specimen, Green Foliage Any Type Blossoms - Classes 1-5

1. Solid
2. Two-tone
3. White edged
4. Multicolor or other edged
5. Fantasy, chimera or pinwheel

SECTION II. Standard Specimen, Variegated Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Class 6

Any blossom color or type

SECTION III. Collections - Classes 7-8

7. **AVSA Collection** of three different registered standard varieties of the same type (three single-crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

8. **AVSA Collection** of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single-crown semi-miniatures or three semi-miniature trailers).

SECTION IV. Species and Trailers, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 9-10

9. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
10. Trailers (standard, mini or semi-miniature)

SECTION V. Semi-miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Classes 11-13

11. Solid
12. Two-tone
13. Multicolor, edged, fantasy or chimera

SECTION VI. Miniature Specimen, Any Foliage, Any Type Blossoms - Class 14

14. Any blossom color or type

SECTION VII. Vintage Violets - Class 15

15. African violets available to growers before 1989

SECTION VIII. Gesneriads Other than African Violets - Classes 16-24

16. *Sinningia* grown for bloom
17. *Streptocarpus* grown for bloom
18. *Kohleria* grown for bloom
19. *Primulinas* and *Henckelias* grown for bloom
20. Any other gesneriad grown for bloom
21. *Primulinas* and *Henckelias* grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
22. *Episcia* grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
23. Any other gesneriad grown for ornamental foliage (no blooms permitted)
24. Collection of three gesneriads of the same genus

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION IX. Interpretive Flower Arrangements: A design using cut African violet blossoms, foliage, and other cut plant material - fresh, dried or treated. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design.

Classes 25-26

Class 25 - "Harry Potter"

Harry Potter attended Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry where he learned how to use a magic wand and how to ride a broomstick. Create a miniature design suggesting motion to be staged in a lighted niche 6" high, 5" wide and 4" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 26 - "Abracadabra"

Magicians use a variety of props to stage their sleight of hand. Objects of all sorts have disappeared behind silk scarves. A silk scarf should appear in this design to be staged in a yellow niche 10" high, 8" wide, and 6" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

Class 27 - "Illusion"

Magician David Copperfield is a popular showman who performs grand illusions. Your violet illusion will be a mobile suspended from a dowel placed over a niche 24" high, 20" wide, and 15" deep. Background is the designer's choice.

SECTION X. Interpretive Plant Arrangements

All entries in this section must include one or more blooming African violet plants. Other plant material - fresh, dried, treated, may be used. No artificial plant material is permitted, but a small amount of other material may be used as part of the design. Background is the designer's choice. Bases not permitted.

Class 28 "Hocus Pocus"

There are more card tricks than any other type of magic tricks. Pick a card, any card, for this design containing a mini or semi miniature African violet plant to be staged in a niche 20" high, 15" wide, and 15" deep.

SECTION XI. Container Gardens- Miniature garden or terrarium with one or more blooming African violets and other growing plants. All plants should be planted in the container, and no cut material is permitted. Terrariums must be covered. No bases permitted. Exhibitor must provide a list of plant names

Class 29 – Dish Garden

Class 30 - Terrarium and Bottle Garden

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XII. Education & AVSA Information Exhibits - Classes 31- 33 (Staffed by a Society member during show)

31. Educational Exhibit
32. AVSA Information Exhibit
33. Gesneriad Exhibit

Check out our Website at
<http://gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/DAVS/>

Upcoming DAVS Meetings...

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Quarterly Board Meeting for Officers and Committee Chairs. Dinner is being provided. Please contact Mary Schaeffer at (302) 836-0540 or schaeffermary@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hosts: Snacks - Carol Callaghan

Beverages – Maria Walueff

Raffle Prizes – Gary Hunter/Geri Garvin

Program: “Getting Your Plants Ready for Their Summer Vacation Outside” Many successful growers have spectacular success by taking some of their plants outside during the warmer months. Our own Quentin Schlieder is one of them. He has agreed to provide instructions on how to do this so your plants thrive during the warmer months. He'll also identify gesneriads which just might attract some hummingbirds. Complimentary rhizomes will be distributed of a plant which grows well outdoors. Show and Tell and Plant/Supply Sale will be held.

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

Hosts: Snacks - Geri Garvin

Beverages – Quentin Schlieder

Raffle Prizes – Stephanie Griffith/Maria Walueff

Program: “Getting Ready for Show”

The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society Newsletter

c/o Quentin Schlieder, Editor
36 South Main Street
Smyrna, DE 19977-1431

Spring Excursion Planned

One of our most popular excursions was to Meadowbrook Farm, Primex Garden Center, and Ott's Exotic Greenhouses is planned on October 18th, 2010. There also was a luncheon stop at Ottos, a German restaurant for Oktoberfest.

These venues are great in the Autumn, but we thought it would be fun to reprise the trip to see what the offer in the Spring. so if there is interest and enough volunteers to drive, we hop to repeat the trip this Spring on Wednesday, April 30, 2014..

We plan to depart from the ACME Parking Area at the Fairfax Shopping Center at 8:45 a.m. and depending on traffic, weather, etc. should return to the Fairfax Shopping Center by 3:00 p.m. The itinerary is tentative, and if you have other suggestions, please share! We will discuss this further at the March meeting on Tuesday evening.

2014 Show Awards

There was an overwhelmingly generous response for the sponsorship of awards for the upcoming Annual Flower Show. Thank you to all who signed up to sponsor an award.

If you are one of the sponsors and haven't already paid, please give either cash or a check payable to DAVS to Treasurer Bobbie LaFashia at the March meeting, or at the April meeting at the latest. A list of awards including the amounts appears in the flower show schedule printed in this issue of the newsletter. If you have any questions, see Quentin Schlieder who has the sign-up list,

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